



# NOTES FROM THE:

## Director, Defense Finance and Accounting Service—Denver Center

by Mr Steve E. Turner

### DFAS-Denver Accounting Operations Build Partnership With the Air Force

DFAS understands the importance of partnering with the Air Force to meet the accounting and finance challenges facing the Department of Defense today. Your Financial Partner @ Work, the new DFAS slogan, emphasizes our increased commitment to partnering with our customers.

The Air Force Accounting and Finance Office (AFAFO) collocation with the DFAS-Denver Center has helped us strengthen that partnership. This past year, the Air Force/DFAS partnership has paid dividends. Several examples of our teamwork are described below.

The Denver Center Operating Locations (OPLOCs) and Financial Services Offices (FSOs) made great strides in cleaning up the Open Document Listing (ODL) through the reengineered Tri-Annual review process. The automated Tri-Annual ODL Review process, which would cover 90 percent of the high dollar lines, was standardized with a coding structure and a MS ACCESS program developed by HQ SSG/FN at Gunter AFB AL. The program was released to the OPLOCs in November 1999 for use during the first review of FY00. We are modifying the program to further streamline the process for the second review.

DFAS-Denver Center, our OPLOCs, and the Air Force Audit Agency (AFAA) have improved the Chief Financial Officer (CFO) audit process by the statistical sampling of transactions throughout the year rather than identifying transactions after fiscal yearend. Our accountants have worked closely with AFAA in validating the roll-up process of accounting data from the OPLOCs to Departmental level to Air Force CFO statements. This partnership is vital to achieving the Air Force's short-term goal to obtain an opinion on the FY99 Statement of Budgetary Resources. Working together will also resolve other complex issues impacting the balance sheet and other financial statements.

To assist the Air Force in achieving auditable CFO financial statements, DFAS Denver Center participated in numerous Integrated Process Teams (IPTs) established by the Air Force.

A Systems Performance IPT was formed to deal with all system-related issues including performance, future enhancements, and fiscal yearend processing. The IPT includes Defense Mega Center personnel, Central Design Activity representatives, OPLOC system personnel, DISA personnel, Air Force representatives and

DFAS-Denver Center functional experts. This forum provides a focal point so all systems stay in sync. As a direct result of the IPT meetings and Air Force partnerships, we believe the 1999 fiscal yearend conversion was the best in Air Force history.

Departmental accounting's quarterly reviews involve SAF and Air Force Materiel Command (AFMC). This extra input resulted in the successful yearend certification of reports. In FY99, departmental reporting to DFAS-HQ was accelerated to the 14th workday for both General Funds and Working Capital. This accelerated schedule worked over 94 percent of the time and did not affect the reporting deadlines in the field. Departmental accounting will form two teams to travel to Washington, DC, to work with SAF/FM on General Fund and Working Capital issues.

The Denver Center Working Capital Funds branch hosted a week-long workshop January 10-13, 2000, for our customers at AFMC/FMR. The workshop provided an overview of the departmental reporting process, including preparation of cash journal vouchers, inventory reevaluation journal vouchers, and consolidation of the over 600 trial balances to produce our monthly financial reports.

Another example of our teamwork: the Air Force and DFAS jointly fund contractor support to prevent and reduce problem disbursements at our liaison office at the DFAS-Columbus Center. Employees of the Air Force FSOs and the Denver Center network OPLOCs work together to prevent problem disbursements and to reduce aged problem disbursements. The Problem Resolution Team consisting of Wright-Patterson AFB and Dayton OPLOC employees meets monthly to discuss and resolve various accounting and support issues, including problem disbursements.

With many challenges ahead, a continued strong partnership between the Air Force and the Denver Center Network is critical to our mutual success. We already have a solid track record and look forward to future collaboration.

These accomplishments to date have only been possible because of the spirit of partnership developed between the Air Force and DFAS. It goes without saying that by working together we will find additional ways to meet our mutual goals and missions. DFAS truly wants to be the Air Force's Financial Partner @ Work.